

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

MAILING ADDRESS:

MPN Application

P. O. Box 420603

San Francisco, CA 94142-0603

(415) 703-4600

**To: Health Care Provider**

Spring, 2005

Re: Participation in Workers' Compensation Medical Provider Networks

Thank you for your interest in participating in a workers' compensation *Medical Provider Network (MPN)* allowed under Labor Code section 4616. While DWC reviews and approves applications for Medical Provider Networks, DWC is not involved in creating the MPNs or in deciding what providers will be included in these networks.

Under Labor Code section 4616, self insured employers, joint powers authorities (JPAs) and workers' compensation carriers may create a Medical Provider Network to deliver medical care to their covered injured employees. If a payer uses a Medical Provider Network, covered injured employees will be required to receive all of their medical treatment and services through that network (with some exceptions) for the life of the claim.

In order to become a member of a network you must contact payer organizations or the established networks they may be working with, to offer your services. Most PPO networks have a provider nomination process, which establishes what information they want from prospective providers. Either you, or in some case employers or payers that you have worked with, may submit a nomination on your behalf. This process varies from network to network. When considering "joining" a Medical Provider Network you should make sure you are familiar with the rules concerning these networks. The MPN regulations may be found on the DWC website <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DWC/> under REGULATIONS --- > California Code of Regulations Title 8 9767.1 et seq. Either the payer entity or the network they are using must have a contract with its participating providers in its MPN under provision of 9767.3 (d) (8) (C). (See above citation).

To assist you in contacting entities that are forming MPNs we are providing the following information:

- Workers' Compensation insurance carriers licensed by the state of California are listed at the California Dept of Insurance website : <http://www.insurance.ca.gov/>
- Approved MPNs (which identify some of the networks already in use as MPNs) can be found at the Division of Workers' Compensation website: www.dir.ca.gov/dwc and go to the section on Medical Provider Networks.

Health care providers should not send information to DWC and may not themselves apply to become a MPN—only payers may set up a MPN.

Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely,

Kathy Dervin, M.P.N.

Manager-DWC Medical Unit